

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

*Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

*Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

*Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Sema Cave**

2. Name of applicant: **Stimson Lumber Company**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**PO Box 1499**

**Newport, WA 99156**

**(509)447-3686**

**Contact: Doug Smith, extension 1122**

4. Date checklist prepared: **July 11, 2006**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **WA DNR**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **August 2006—August 2008, excepting the spring period between March 15—June 15 when operations are restricted for grizzly bear considerations.**

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7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? **Yes**

If yes, explain. **The objective of this project is the harvesting of timber. Subsequent management activities including monitoring, culvert cleaning and other road maintenance work, noxious weed treatment, slash disposal and other fuel reduction, stocking surveys, precommercial thinning are expected to follow the activities of this initial proposal. (source: EIS, p. I-10) There are no specifically scheduled plans for subsequent timber harvests at this time.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, Stimson Access Project,  
Idaho Panhandle National Forests, March 2004**

**Soil Survey of Pend Oreille County, Washington, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Oct 1992  
Washington DNR Soil Section Map for Section 5, Township 36 North, Range 45 East, WM**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? **None known**

If yes, explain.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**DNR Forest Practices Application**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) **Timber harvesting. The complete timber harvest details (including mitigation for Trail No. 241) are provided in the accompanying forest practices application. The breakdown of prescriptive harvest treatments is as follows:**

<u>Unit No.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Silvicultural Treatment</u>	<u>Comments/Residual Stand</u>
51	47	Overstory Removal	300 tpa* <10" dbh** + WL overstory
52	57	Seed Tree	100 tpa <10" dbh + DF, WL overstory
53	225	Shelterwood	100 tpa <10" dbh + 22 tpa >10"
54	8	Individual Tree Selection	150 tpa <10" dbh + 10 tpa >10"

**Notes: \*tpa—trees per acre, \*\*dbh—diameter at breast height (4'6"), tpa numbers are estimates.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. **Section 5, Township 36 North, Range 45 East, W.M. A site map and area map are provided in the accompanying forest practices application.**

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **45% within the project unit boundaries.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **There are five separate soil types in Section 5: Newbell silt-loam, Newbell rock-outcrop complex, Rock-outcrop Manley complex, Scrabblers silt loam and Vassar silt loam. (source: Soil Survey of Pend Oreille County, Washington, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Oct 1992)**

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d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **None noted.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **None planned for this proposal.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**The potential hazard of localized erosion from harvesting activities ranges from slight to severe as defined by the Soil Conservation Service (USDA SCS, Soil Survey of Pend Oreille County, 1992) depending on the soil type and slope steepness.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **0%**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **In order to minimize the extent of erosion the following measures have been taken or will be observed during harvesting activities:**

**1—No entry is proposed into riparian and wetland management zones except as noted in the forest practices application.**

**2—Skid trails characterized by bare mineral soils will be water barred after use.**

**3—The road system designed and constructed to support this project includes features recommended by Dale McGreer to control erosion and prevent the introduction of sediment into streams from the road system. These features are detailed in a technical report prepared for Stimson Lumber Company, "Erosion and Sediment Control Analysis" by Dale J. McGreer and Dennis T. Schult, February 9, 1998.**

a. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? **Dust and heavy equipment exhaust will result from this forest practice. If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. The quantities are not known.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **None known.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None**

3. **Water**

a. **Surface:**

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? **Yes.**

If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **Sema Creek and other streams are identified by type on the forest practices application base map. All streams in the project area are tributary to Sema Creek. The breakdown by DNR stream types within the project area is as follows:**

<u>DNR Stream Type</u>	<u>Streams or stream segments</u>
<b>F (fish bearing)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Np (perennial, non-fish bearing)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Ns (seasonal, non-fish bearing)</b>	<b>5</b>

**In addition to the streams above, thirteen forested wetland areas have been identified within the project area.**

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? **Yes.**

If yes, please describe and attach available plans. **Plans are detailed in the accompanying forest practices application.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. **None**  
Indicate the source of fill material. **Does not apply**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? **No**

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Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? **There is no designated 100-year flood plain within Section 5. (source: Pend Oreille County Planning Department)**

If so, note location on the site plan.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? **No**

If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? **No**

Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). **None**

Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). **Runoff from winter snow melt will naturally collect and disperse through surface and subsurface systems. Runoff from storm events will be diverted from roads and trails by outsloping, drivable drain dips, water bars and other means. A slash windrow has been constructed parallel to roads in the project area to filter sediment entrained in overland flow.**

Where will this water flow? **Runoff (above) will be dispersed onto the forest floor away from protected resource features.**

Will this water flow into other waters? **No**

If so, describe.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? **No**

If so, generally describe.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **See item C1.**

#### 4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Approximately 60% of conifer timber and incidental brush.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None (source: EIS, p. III-115)**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **None**

#### 5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: moose

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **No T&E species are known to be on this site, however measures to protect habitat for grizzly bear, lynx and bull trout are incorporated into the harvest plan as detailed in the forest practices application.**

NONE ON  
TRAX  
-RN

NONE ON  
TRAX  
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The EIS considered the effects of this proposal in regard to grey wolf, woodland caribou, grizzly bear and lynx habitat. Proposed activities were determined not likely to adversely affect wolf, caribou populations or habitat (source: EIS, p. III-8 & 9). The proposal was determined not to have an adverse affect on grizzly bears (source: EIS, p. III-40). In terms of the Sema Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU), this proposal would result in shift of 381 acres from Low Quality Forage Habitat to Unsuitable Habitat—a change of 3% across the LAU. The accepted management threshold is maintaining such changes to less than 15% across the LAU over any given 10 year period (source: EIS, p. III-49).

c. Is the site part of a migration route? **None known**

If so, explain.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Timber harvesting plans will be in compliance with the Grizzly Bear Best Management Practices (Exhibit E) from the Conservation Agreement Among Stimson Lumber Company and USDA Forest Service, Colville National Forest and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, February 1, 2000 which is attached to this checklist.**

#### 6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? **Diesel and gasoline fuel for heavy equipment and truck operation.**

Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. **Use is for consumption in internal combustion engines for transportation and equipment operation.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? **No**

If so, generally describe.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? **None**

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **None**

#### 7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? **Yes.**  
If so, describe. **Harvesting operations may accidentally result in fire or spills of petroleum products.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **Emergency fire-fighting services.**

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Contractor will be required to have fire suppression equipment on site during the fire season. Contractor will be required to have a spill kit on site during the entire operation.**

#### b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **None**

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? **Heavy equipment and truck operation for the duration of the project. The noise level is not known. Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. Normal hours of operation would be between 4 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None**

#### 8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **forest**

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? **No** If so, describe.

c. Describe any structures on the site. **None**

d. Will any structures be demolished? **No** If so, what?

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **This site is not zoned**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Natural Resource Lands**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **Does not apply**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? **No** If so, specify.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **does not apply**

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1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **Long-term timber production is the predominant land management emphasis in the project area. The Idaho Panhandle National Forest lands surrounding the project section are designated for timber production (MA-1) or timber production within big game winter range (MA-4) among other designations (source: EIS, p. I-3). Similarly situated area lands in private ownership are managed for long-term timber production. This project is entirely consistent with the prevalent land use designation for this area.**

## 9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **None**

## 10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **No structures are proposed**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **Harvest activities will alter the viewscape from Trail No. 241.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **The trail will be protected with an equipment limitation zone discussed below in 12c.**

## 11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **Road travel and loading log trucks in the pre-dawn hours will require light.**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **No**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None**

## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Forest Service Trail No. 241 is located in the east half of the east half of Section 5. The trail has been designated as a fire access trail with a low level of maintenance since 1995. At that time, trail signs were removed and the trail was taken off the District Travel Plan map as well as other trail guides. The Idaho Panhandle NF does not have an easement from Stimson for the trail segment that crosses Section 5 (source: EIS, p. III-132). Recreational activities associated with the use of the trail are hiking, berry picking, hunting, bird watching, enjoying nature and horseback riding.**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? **No. If so, describe.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **The forest trail will be buffered with a 15' equipment limitation zone on each side of the trail. Timber harvested within the zone will be directionally felled to the outside of the zone or felled mechanically and bunched outside of the zone. Trail crossings for equipment operation and forwarding will be designated no less than an average of 500' from each other. Disturbance from harvesting operations at trail crossings will be mitigated by clearing the trail of logging debris so that it will be passable by foot or on horseback.**

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? **Yes**  
If so, generally describe. **Forest Service Trail No. 241 is recognized as a cultural site by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (Site No. 45PO448). The trail is not registered as a federal site. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians does not have this site in their database as a tribal resource (source: personal correspondence, July 11, 2006, Kevin Lyons, Kalispel Tribe Cultural Resources Program Manager).**
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or

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cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **Forest Service Trail No. 241**  
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **see item 12C.**

**14. Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. **USFS Road No. 308 is the nearest public road. Access into Section 5 is restricted by a gate in Section 9, Township 36 North, Range 45 East, WM.**

Show on site plans, if any. **See transportation plan in forest practices application.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? **No**

If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **50 miles, Newport, WA**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **None**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? **Yes**

If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **Construction of private roads for this project are permitted under FPA #3011804.**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? **No**  
If so, generally describe.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? **The number of vehicular entries into the project area will significantly decline following project completion. The number of entries per year will be reduced to 15—20 during the first year following the project and will be reduced further in subsequent years to a level of 0—2 entries for land management and road maintenance activities.**

If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **Peak traffic volume will occur during the project which is scheduled from July 2006 through February 2007.**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None**

**15. Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? **No** If so, generally describe.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None**

**16. Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None**

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. **None**

**C. SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Doug Smith

Date Submitted: 7/21/06

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or

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at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise? **The proposal will result in a temporary increase in vehicle and equipment emissions as well as noise for the duration of the project.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: **No measures are proposed.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? **The proposal is likely to result in a temporary disturbance for some plants and animals.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: **Compliance with Grizzly Bear Best Management Practices and Washington Forest Rules.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? **The proposal is unlikely to deplete resources. This proposal is part of the landowner's comprehensive management plan which is based on sustainable resource management.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: **None proposed**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? **The proposal is unlikely to result in a net adverse affect on such areas.**

- **Sema Lynx Analysis Unit—shift in habitat designation is within management guidelines (EIS, p. III-49)**
- **Kalispell-Granite Bear Management Unit—obliteration and decommissioning of roads on USFS lands mitigates for loss of core habitat resulting from project (EIS, p. III-39).**
- **Sema Meadows (Section 4, Twn 36N, Rng 45E, WM) is a significant hydrologic feature beginning almost immediately downstream from the project area (EIS, p. III-57 through III-61). Activities in compliance with Washington forest rules and Dale McGreer road construction guidelines are expected to prevent adverse affects in this sensitive area.**
- **Sema Creek Trail No. 241—trail activities are expected to decline as the trail and trail head become more brushed in (EIS, p. III-133). In this regard, project activities are expected to have no effect on trail use.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: **None proposed**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? **The proposal would result in the lawful and sustainable use of the land by the owner in long-term timber production.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: **None proposed**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? **This proposal is not likely to increase demands on these services or utilities.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: **None proposed**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. **This proposal is not in conflict with any of the above.**

REVIEWED BY  
RANDY NELSON DNR NE REGION  
FOREST PRACTICE DISTRICT  
J.R. Nelson  
7/26/06